

**BILL:** HOUSE BILL 523  
**TITLE:** County Boards of Education - Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism and Expulsion - Investigation and Reporting  
**DATE:** February 10, 2025  
**POSITION:** UNFAVORABLE  
**COMMITTEE:** House – Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** Brian Dulay, MABE Government Relations Director

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state’s local boards of education, opposes House Bill 523. As the voice of Maryland’s 24 local boards, MABE believes the principle of local governance by boards of education is fundamental to a sound system of public education. This bill imposes a local government mandate.

MABE recognizes and appreciates the intent of this legislation to determine the root causes of chronic absenteeism and expulsion in our public schools. The prevalence of these issues varies greatly from one district to another, however, and the local governance authority of boards of education in Maryland is continuously challenged by state initiatives.

Maryland statute provides that “educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education” and that local boards “determine, with the advice of the county superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system” (§§4-101 and 4-108, Education Article). MABE seeks to prevent policies that create more confusion than clarity, or worse, policies that increase administrative burden.

For the above reasons, MABE respectfully opposes HB 523.